determining means for determining if the input information input to the inputting means includes the sheet of the format image information; and

wherein when the sheet of format image information is detected with sheet document image information on subsequent sheets the storing means further stores the sheet document image information in a prescribed folder in accordance with the format image information.

15. (Twice Amended) A method for controlling a network system including a plurality of users connected through a plurality of client terminal devices connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

storing image information in various folders to be read by the plurality of users;

inputting image information including both sheet document image information to be stored and a sheet of format image information, the sheet of format image information being on a separate sheet from sheets of the sheet document image information;

determining if the input image information includes the sheet of the format image information; and

storing, when the sheet of format image information is detected with sheet document image information on subsequent sheets, the document image information in the image information storing device in a prescribed folder in accordance with the format image information.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the following comments and as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 4-7, 11-14, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,490,217 to Wang et al. (herein "Wang") in view of Barnes "Ten Minute Guide to Windows 3.1", SAMS, pages 79-83, 1992.

Initially, applicant and applicant's representative wish to thank Examiner Paula for the interview granted on March 12, 2003. During the interview the outstanding rejections were discussed in detail. Further, during the interview proposed claim amendments were discussed to address the outstanding issues. Those discussed claim amendments are submitted herein. Examiner Paula indicated that he would more fully consider such claim amendments when formally presented in a filed response.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Each of independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein, and specifically to clarify the relationship between the "format image information" and "sheet document image information". The claims specifically now recite "a sheet of format image information, the sheet of format image being on a separate sheet from sheets of the sheet document image information". That claim language is believed to clarify the language noted as not supported by the specification in paragraph 9 of the Office Action.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Claim 1 is amended at line 10 to now recite the term "document image information", to be consistent with the other recitations throughout the claims. The amendment is believed to overcome the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 4-7, 11-14, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Wang</u> in view of <u>Barnes</u>, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

It is initially noted that one basis for maintaining the outstanding rejection was that certain arguments presented in the previous response were not clearly reflected in the claims. Specifically, the outstanding Office Action states:

> In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "When that format sheet is detected the subsequent sheet image document information is appropriately processed", p. 7, L.1.4) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)".[2]

In response to that basis for maintaining the outstanding rejection, it is noted that each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to now more clearly reflect the above-noted features. Specifically, the claims now recite storing of the sheet document image information in the prescribed folder "when the sheet of format image information is detected with sheet document image information on subsequent sheets". Such features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to <u>Wang</u> in view of <u>Barnes</u>.

As is discussed in the present specification, in one operation of the claimed invention a sheet document that is input can be preceded by a sheet document of format image information. In the specific non-limiting embodiment shown for example in Figure 3, the format image sheet P can be placed on top of a sheet document, and when that format image sheet P is detected, that controls the storage of the subsequent sheet document image information. Such an operation as clarified in the claims is neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

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[2]Office Action of December 13, 2002, page 6, lines 3-6 of prenumbered paragraph 14.

Wang discloses a more complicated operation than that in the claimed invention as Wang discloses an operation in which a sheet document itself must have specific identifying image data printed thereon initially. For example as shown in Figures 7-10 of Wang, Wang discloses that documents can be initially processed to include a machine readable image code 16, which can thereby be read to control processing of the document. However, that operation in Wang requires every document to be initially processed to include the image code 16.

In contrast to the operation in Wang, in the claims the documents themselves need not be specially initially processed. Instead, in the claims a separate sheet contains format information, and that separate sheet can be simply placed prior to any desired document. When that format sheet is detected the subsequent sheet image document information is appropriately processed. Wang does not teach or suggest such an operation.
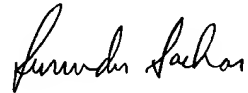
In such ways, each of the claims clearly distinguishes over the teachings in Wang. Moreover, no teachings in Barnes can overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Wang.

In such ways, each of the pending claims is believed to distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Twice Amended) A network system including a plurality of users connected through a plurality of client terminal devices connected to a network, comprising:

an image information storing server connected to the network, and configured to store image information in various folders to be read by the plurality of users;

an image information inputting device connected to the image information storing server not by the users, and configured to input image information including both sheet document image information to be stored in the image information storing device and <u>a sheet of</u> format image information [of a sheet separate from]<u>, the sheet of format image information being on a separate sheet from sheets of</u> the sheet document image [formation] <u>information;</u>

an image information determining device configured to determine if the image information input by the image information inputting device includes the sheet of the format image information; and

wherein <u>when the sheet of format image information is detected with sheet document image information on subsequent sheets</u> the image information storing server is further configured to store the <u>sheet</u> document image information in a prescribed folder in accordance with the format image information.

8. (Twice Amended) A network system including a plurality of users connected through a plurality of client terminal devices connected to a network, comprising:

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storing means for storing image information in various folders to be read by the

plurality of users;

inputting means for inputting image information including both of sheet document

image information to be stored in the image information storing device and a sheet of format

image information [of a sheet separate from], the sheet of format image information being on

a separate sheet from sheets of the sheet document image information;

determining means for determining if the input information input to the inputting

means includes the sheet of the format image information; and

wherein when the sheet of format image information is detected with sheet document

image information on subsequent sheets the storing means further stores the sheet document

image information in a prescribed folder in accordance with the format image information.

15. (Twice Amended) A method for controlling a network system including a

plurality of users connected through a plurality of client terminal devices connected to a

network, comprising the steps of:

storing image information in various folders to be read by the plurality of users;

inputting image information including both sheet document image information to be

stored and a sheet of format image information [of a sheet separate from], the sheet of format

image information being on a separate sheet from sheets of the sheet document image

information;

determining if the input image information includes the sheet of the format image

information; and

storing, when the sheet of format image information is detected with sheet document

image information on subsequent sheets, the document image information in the image

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information storing device in a prescribed folder in accordance with the format image

information.--